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*Agency of Human Services*

To: Vaccines for Children (VFC) practices administering Pentacel

From: Vermont Immunization Program

Date: 12/02/15

This letter is to inform you of a national manufacturing delay with Sanofi Pasteur's Pentacel (DTaP-IPV/Hib). Effective immediately, limitations on Pentacel vaccine orders and vaccine administration are necessary in order to effectively manage our reduced supply. The delay is anticipated to last throughout the first half of 2016.

In 2015, approximately one third of Vermont infants received Pentacel for doses 1 through 4 of the DTaP, polio and Hib series. The remaining two thirds received GlaxoSmithKline's Pediarix, (DTaP-IPV-Hep B) for doses 1 through 3 of the DTaP, polio and hepatitis B series. This shortage is not expected to affect practices using Pediarix.

In order to minimize the impact of this shortage on your practice and patients, and utilize the combination doses most effectively, please:

- **Administer Pentacel only for doses 1 through 3.** Your next vaccine order will be calculated to include additional DTaP and Hib vaccines to administer separately for the fourth doses.
- A reminder that GlaxoSmithKline's Kinrix, (DTaP-IPV) is licensed only as the fifth dose of DTaP and the fourth dose of IPV in children ages 4 through 6 years. It should not be administered in place of the fourth Pentacel dose for children 15-18 months old. A fourth polio dose is not necessary until after age 4, prior to kindergarten entry.
- Please contact us if you prefer to switch from Pentacel to Pediarix.

Thank you for your patience. We apologize for the inconvenience caused by this temporary national shortage.

